

THE BELL RINGER



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Montgomery Bell Academy

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OCTOBER 23, 1992

CLINTON, PEROT, OR BUSH?

by Greg Holyfield, Staff Writer and Andy Anderton,
Entertainment Editor

Upon examining the views of Mr. Fitzgerald in his article "Bill Clinton: A Little Too Slick", Mr. Holyfield and I want to first, respond to these views and secondly, to present the basic facts that prove the democratic ticket of Bill Clinton and Al Gore to be America's saving grace. Mr. Fitzgerald claims that Bill Clinton is a man who shifts his views of the issues "in order to please the different groups within his party". Must we forget that while George Bush was campaigning for the Republican Presidential nomination in 1980, he was adamantly pro-choice in his abortion views but now in 1992, he is adamantly pro-life. We could also go into the "read my lips" fiasco as well as other broken campaign promises, but our purpose is not to sling mud but to present an intelligent argument on why Bill Clinton should be our next President of the United States.

First, let's talk accomplishments. Bill Clinton is the nation's longest serving governor and was rated the most effective

governor in the country by his fellow governors (both Republican and Democrat) in a June 1991 Newsweek survey. The state of Arkansas is first in the nation in job growth and has the second lowest tax burden in the country. In addition, Clinton has moved over 17,000 people from welfare to work

Please see **CLINTON**,
page 7

by Bo Sundius, Staff Writer

I regretfully have to say that this article is not going to be a Bush bashing or a moral analysis of "Slick Willy Clinton." No, I am



sorry, I don't believe in scandalization or McCarthyism. No hack politician, no repetitious political rhetoric and no typical political hot air is going to be displayed. I am tired of listening to the ceaseless barrage of scandalous and blameworthy blows between the Republican and Democratic Parties. Fortunately, for those who are disgusted along with me about the progression of this year's elections, we have a panacea. We have a candidate who is straight forward, honest, ambitious, and best of all not a politician. We have Ross Perot.

Lesson one: "Why don't we mess with Texas?" The answer of this question lies in the fact that Texans get things done. Perot is the answer to our political and economic stagnancy because he gets things done; he is a Texan. Perot is the only candidate with a true and definite plan to stabilize our economy. By increasing the gasoline tax by 50 cents a gallon, doubling the tobacco tax and equalizing Medicare costs to name a few, Perot submits a plan that

Please see **PEROT**, page 6

by Andrew Fitzgerald, Staff Conservative

At a recent speaking appearance in Nashville, President Bush opened by stating that he was proud to be running a campaign that does

not feel the need to put down America. He was of course referring to Governor Clinton's campaign, which chooses not to emphasize the ideas and platform of its candidate,

but to criticize the supposed weaknesses of modern day America. This reflects the majority of Clinton's supporters, who do not necessarily support Clinton, but are simply voting against the current administration because of the failed America sentiment being spread by the liberal media. The Bush/Quayle campaign feels no need for such smear tactics, as President Bush has numerous good points, not the least of which are a solid record and a sensible platform for American renewal. In order to illustrate these points I will categorically address a few of the more prevalent issues of this election.

Taxing is an issue which the Clinton campaign has attempted to turn against Bush, because of the 1990 tax increase. At the time, the President was being criticized for not working with congress, and after several rejections of various White House tax proposals, Congress was definitely not willing to work with President Bush. In a gesture to compromise with the Democratic Congress, Bush agreed to the tax increase. At the time he was praised by

liberals for the move. Today, however, these same liberals criticize President Bush for the "outrageous" tax increase. President Bush has long since admitted this was a mistake and apologized for the increase, but Governor Clinton makes no apologies for his plan which calls for \$154 billion in tax increases. That is twice the increase proposed in Mondale and Dukakis' platforms combined. President Bush's plan calls for an across-the-board capital gains cut, tax credit for small businesses and first time home buyers, and drastic cuts in spending.

One of America's strongest ideals is the opportunity it provides for individual achievement. A country's social success is not defined by how many people are supported by the government, but by how many people no longer need the support of the government. The Democrats' "big government" programs not only work against the American individual, but they fail to recognize that government intervention is not the right answer to every problem. It is not difficult to find problems with Clinton's gov-

Please see **BUSH**, page 7

HOMECOMING NEWS

by Andy Barrett, Reporter

This homecoming marks the third year of M.B.A.'s reunion weekend. Many exciting events are slated for M.B.A. alumni.

This year, M.B.A. is honoring the classes that graduated in a year ending with a two or a seven (1942, 1947, etc.). Special activities have been scheduled for these classes.

Homecoming week starts early for the graduating classes of 1914-1942 and 1947. On Tuesday, October 20th, these alumni will attend a luncheon in the Gibbs room of the Davis Building. On Friday night, the remaining classes will attend the spa-

ghetti supper together. All alumni and their families will receive free tickets to the football game against Hillwood at 7:30 p.m.

On Saturday, the honored classes will participate in several activities. First, tours of the campus will be given for alumni, followed by a question and answer session with Dr. Paschall. Lastly, individual classes will host their own parties on Saturday night. Homecoming weekend will be an exciting time for both present and past M.B.A. students. -The author would like to thank Mrs. Napier for her help.

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NEWS

Letter From the Editor



**Will
Berry**
**Editor-in-
Chief**

The long-awaited second issue of *The Bell Ringer* is here! In this issue, we have several new columns, such as "Dr. Dickey's Dating Dilemmas" and "The Tennessee Outdoorsman". This issue has extensive coverage of

the upcoming presidential election. In a schoolwide poll conducted by *The Bell Ringer* (see page seven), with about half of the students participating, George Bush scored an overwhelming victory over Perot and Clinton.

In this issue, several controversial opinions are expressed by different students. *The Bell Ringer* encourages letters to the editor (which are signed) and any other opinions about

school life or other pertinent subjects. We the editors are open to any comments, criticisms, or suggestions and we will continue to attempt to improve this publication. Individuals who are interested in writing for the next issue should see me, Dr. Griffith, or the editor of the section for which he would like to write.

Sincerely,

Editor-in-Chief
Will Berry

Big Red Club Revival

by Alex Dean, Big Red Club President

In the past the Big Red Club has presented itself on only a few occasions. This year is different, though, with the new leadership of President Alex Dean, Vice-president Glenn Gaston, Secretary Greg Holyfield, Treasurer Joseph Sifton, and Social Manager Peter Stahl.

We have a tremendous amount planned for this year, from tailgate parties before football games to the Right Field Rowdies at baseball games.

As President, I feel that it is my duty to explain in detail what the Big Red Club is and what it represents. In the past, the Big Red Club has been the school's spirit club. This year it means more. Promoting school spirit and pride in the student body involves more work than one would think and is something of which we need more. Although it is true that many students come to football games, we the students must also support other sports that have not drawn as large a crowd in the past, such as basketball games, wrestling matches, and lacrosse games.

Our major goal this year is the most important issue concerning the Big Red Club: school pride. We will do our best to promote school pride with several activities after school throughout the year. I appreciate your time and hope you will help us make the campus of Montgomery Bell Academy a cleaner and more enjoyable place.

*Editor's Note:
The opinions and
ideas expressed in
this newspaper are
not necessarily those
of The Bell Ringer or
Montgomery Bell
Academy.*

Letters to the Editor

Hair Code Rebuttal

Dear *Bell Ringer* and
Mr. Chapman,

Editor's Note: This letter is in response to Mr. Chapman's article in the last issue

In your article, "The Importance of Proper Appearance," you (Winston) disguise the real issue of breaking the traditional Southern tradition with the unimportant subject of rebelling against the hair and dress codes. You state that your article "offers facts, not opinions" but then you say that your viewpoints...may appear a bit cold." A viewpoint *is* an opinion.

You rejoice at the departure of those rule-breaking "long hairs" and go on to write: "During their high school careers, these individuals...sought only to obliterate tradition...and to purposefully annoy all law-abiding and tradition-loving students" and state that this year's senior class is "near perfect" (an obvious opinion). You say that long hair is inappropriate. Whose opinion is this, or is it just another one of your "facts"? Was long hair inappropriate on George Washington and Ben Franklin? No. Why then at M.B.A.?

The hair and dress codes do not exist to further our education, considering that schools with lenient

codes, such as the University School of Nashville, produce students equal to the M.B.A. "standard of excellence." They exist, as you say, to maintain tradition, that of an "aristocratic Southern country club." So what are these traditions? Short hair and a neat, clean outfit? Sure, but look a little deeper and you'll find a tradition of hate. Hate for anyone slightly different from the norm. Hate for blacks, homosexuals, Northerners, foreigners, and people with different or no religious beliefs. In my years at M.B.A., I have heard enough prejudiced statements and derogatory terms used toward these people which keep the "tradition" alive and well.

You would find out that the "long hairs" stretch the aforementioned rules to show that they are different from the average, stereotypical M.B.A. student...if, instead of forming your own opinion, you bothered to ask them. It is time for M.B.A. to change its "Southern country club" image. Diversifying the student body and faculty is a step in the right direction. Such steps need to follow even if that means having to adjust the hair and dress codes along the way.

Sincerely,
Chris Kuhn

Suppression of ICKY

Dear *Bell Ringer*,

Clearly the 1990's are an age of flagrant and everpresent self deception. In Yugoslavia, people are signing peace treaties when both sides would rather be fighting. Here in the United States, we are holding an election based on an illusory problem created by the media.

But though we see national and global problems, we do not comprehend the true danger of the threat under our noses. I speak, of course of the terrible suppression of the "Icky Icky Do Wah" cheer at M.B.A. pep rallies and events.

At the same time as a certain Tennessee senator's wife is approaching a role where she can torture the American people with the unfortunate scourge of censorship, M.B.A. officials are preventing students from expressing ourselves in a manner which does nothing but reveal the internal turmoil in every man's soul. If they would not have us see the real world, let us throw great literature into the fire, followed by all the publications. But the problem is even worse. They did not proclaim their ruling in a public setting, but hid it behind a front of weak cheers. I would wage, if pressed, that they would withdraw with incoherent mutters about family values. We have

seen the Communist empire crumble under the twin, and linked, weights of censorship and popular apathy. But then we saw the M.B.A. team beaten by the Cleveland Raiders because of those same heavy burdens. The return of our freedom of expression is the return of our strength. The thoughts which I like to associate with M.B.A. are tradition and the search for truth. The anti-Icky decision contradicts both and attacks M.B.A. at its very core. Bring back Icky and Roll Red!

Sincerely,
Winn Keathley,
outraged student



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CLUB UPDATE

Debate Team Continues Its Success

by Bobby Hartman, Reporter

Venturing to Wake Forest for the first tournament of the year, the 1992-93 debate team started the season in an unbelievable fashion. Competing among 127 varsity teams, Sachin Vaikunth and Jason Bennett placed in the top ten while the component of Suresh Gunasekaren and Bobby Hartman advanced to finals and defeated opposing Canton Catholic Central of Ohio. In the J.V. division, the teams of Eric Womack partnered with Tim Wesley and Praveen Kambam partnered with Clay Risen reached elimination rounds with enough wins to place them within tenth seed. Thomas Springer, competing in the oratory division also reached elimination rounds.

The teams second showing was at the Mid-America Cup Tournament of Des Moines, Iowa. Here, Suresh captured his first ever first place speaker award. As a team, Suresh and Bobby remained undefeated until a close

octa-finals round. In the J.V. division, Tom Hall and Clay Risen advanced into the elimination rounds as top seed and continued winning until a rough final round. Clay Risen also was named the tournament's second-

Please See **DEBATE**, page 6

Drama Underway on the Hill

by Sean Strauss, Drama Club Vice President

The new Theater Arts and Drama Club is underway. In an interview with the new department head, Mr. Bart Whiteman, Sean Strauss asked about the new program.

BR: What are the plans for theater at M.B.A. this year?

Mr. Whiteman: There will be several phases in the organization of the The-

ater Arts Club this year. First, the by-laws of the constitution will be drawn up by the officers. When the theater is finished, the club members will familiarize themselves with its facilities and soon after productions will be on their way.

BR: What are the goals of this new organization?

Mr. Whiteman: We plan to do three departmental productions: a world, an American, and a contemporary theater production. In addition, the club wants to do as many of its own productions as possible while also reaching out to the community and bringing in talent from other schools.

BR: Are there plans for developing a full scale drama class?

Mr. Whiteman: The Junior School already has access to an introductory drama class. A tutorial course is now offered to interested high school students and there are plans for an acting class as well as other branches of drama.

BR: What are your impressions of the facilities in the theater?

Mr. Whiteman: The facilities are very exciting and offer many possibilities. It is very unusual for a high school to have access to such a theater; I find the facilities to be extraordinary. The theater has been compared to TPAC as a result of its excellent lighting and acoustics.

The Drama Club is made up of seven executive officers: president Hayes Fowler, 1st vice president Sean Strauss, 2nd vice president Eric Anderson, secretary Will Hickerson, assistant secretary Stephen Hunt, treasurer Rob Hancock, and assistant treasurer Jeff Day.

The Drama Club meets during activity periods on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday. The Drama Club has decided to go by the name "Civil War Chess Set," generated from the mind of Hayes Fowler. Mr. Fowler also commented, "the establishment of an organized theatrical department at M.B.A. makes me quiver with the delight of a young school girl at recess."

F.C.A. Off to a Good Start

by John Arendale, F.C.A. President

As the start of school has rolled around, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes has already begun to kick off the year. We started off the year by meeting at Chad White's house for an afternoon of playing volleyball, swimming, and eating hamburgers. This meeting was very enjoyable, and provided an opportunity for everyone to get to know one another. This introductory meeting to familiarized everyone with F.C.A. and its purposes.

Two weeks later, we held our first organized meeting on Thursday night

and were greatly surprised by the unexpected large turnout. Don Admire discussed how to walk daily with Christ. Since



Intense Volleyball

then, we have had two more exceptional meetings, one discussing how to deal with your parents and the other a movie on loving your neigh-

bor.

The Fellowship of Christian Athletes has gotten off to a great start this year. We are really hoping that we can affect the lives of many students and be an important influence in the community. We know that F.C.A. may not be for everyone, but we urge each person to give it a try. It could change your life. If anyone has any questions, talk to John Arendale (President), Tom Hamling (Vice President), Glenn Gaston (Secretary), or Joey Delemos (Treasurer).

The New Chorus

by Brandon Hulette, Reporter

The M.B.A. chorus is off to an impressive start this year under the leadership of new choral director Dr. David Cassel. Under the direction of Dr. Cassel and accompanist Marian Ross, the membership of the chorus has increased, especially in the senior class. Members of the chorus are as follows: Bo Mixon, Winn Keathley, Alex Dean, and Brandon Hulette on Bass II; Mike Anderson, Phil Hill, Trent Batey, Rob

Whitley, and Jeremy Derbyberry on Bass I; Sean Murphy on second tenor and Barrett Rose on first tenor. The chorus plans to perform for the student body in the near future as well as to participate in the annual Christmas Concert with Harpeth Hall. The chorus is continually expanding its membership and welcomes any interested individuals to third period class in the Davis Building.

Boys' Club Reaches Out to the Community

by Thomas Springer, News Editor

On Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from four to five (and often later), a number of M.B.A. students drive to the Boys' and Girls' Club of Middle Tennessee, located on Thompson Lane. There elementary school children receive academic tutoring and, more importantly, an older friend from the M.B.A. students.

The program at M.B.A. has grown steadily over the last several years, with a total of more than thirty students volunteering to help this year alone.

In only my second year in the program, I can vouch for the personal sense of satisfaction that one derives from working closely, on an individual basis, with these children, many of whom have no adult friends or role models.

If you would like to join, please see Mr. Moxley; more volunteers are always needed. You might be surprised at how much fun you can have learning from these children while they learn from you.

Everett Holzapfel

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From the Annals
of W-5:
What the law does
not forbid, honor
and modesty do.
- Seneca

OPINIONS

Decision '92: Read This and Know How To Vote



Winston Chapman
"Defender of the Faith"

Writer's Note: Mr. Chapman's views are not necessarily those held by M.B.A. or by *The Bell Ringer*. BUT THEY OUGHT TO BE!

Hello, kids! I certainly hope this year is going well for all of you so far. Oh, by the way, it is I again, the Defender of the Faith at M.B.A., Winston Chapman. As I sit here at the keyboard of my top of the line, state of the art IBM computer (why buy less?), I think of how incredibly well my last article was

received by the vast majority of students, faculty, parents, and alumni of the school. Almost everyone loved (and fully agreed with) what I had to say concerning the dress and hair codes.

On November 3, 1992, the American people will make a choice that is going to affect their lives for many years to come. Realistically, there are two men who have a chance at the presidency, but there is only one real choice for America. Many of you have told me that you are supporting Bill Clinton because George Bush has disappointed you during his four years in office. Some say that he lied about not raising taxes and that he did not go far

enough during the Persian Gulf War. Do you actually think he wanted to raise taxes, or that the Democrats in Congress fought him on that deci-



Bush speaks in Nashville

sion? Get real! They were the ones who kept passing bills and pressuring Mr. Bush to make the decision that he did. Also, it is the same pack of Liberals, originally opposed

to the Gulf War, who jumped on the President's bandwagon when we won, and have since jumped off, saying that Mr. Bush did not do enough to remove Saddam Hussein from power.

If you still need another reason to support George Bush (and you should not), just think about whom Slick Willie is planning to tax the most if he is elected. M.B.A. is not an inexpensive school, and most of our parents have been relatively successful in life, giving them the ability and resources to send us to the Hill. Look, I am not trying to of-

fend anyone here, I am just trying to be as factual and realistic as possible. Bill Clinton's primary income tax increases will target the top two percent of American family incomes. Guess what that happens to be most of us, guys. So it is good-bye to the Mercedes, so long to the house in Sea Island, and bon voyage to the European vacations. If these things do not matter to you, that is perfectly all right, but I am quite simply incapable of understanding why the wealthy should be punished for their success and hard work through heavy taxation. Give it some thought and let *The Bell Ringer* and me know how you feel, especially if it is the same way I do!

Clinton, Liberals, and Long Hairs



Andrew Vahrenkamp
Opinions Editor and Staff Liberal

Greetings once again from the voice of truth, yours truly. It seems as though a great moral conflict is arising in our nation today. Of course, I speak of the upcoming presidential election. This year, we, the American public, have the choice of a bureaucratic Texas billionaire and/or his volunteers, an ineffective but incumbent former wimp who lives in a Texas hotel room, or the most acclaimed governor in the nation.

Seems to me the choice is obvious; however, I have learned to my utter chagrin that many of you support a man who cheats his own government out of taxes, a man who embraces Cold War ideology, a man who sells weapons to an enemy terrorist nation, a man afraid to say or do anything to hurt his standing in the polls; basically, a relic unable to adapt to change.

Bush refused to admit that we were in a recession until at least two years had passed. He supported, and continues to support, the forces of the status quo around the world, from his attempt to prop up the dying

Soviet Union to his support of the criminal Serbian regime in Yugoslavia.

But enough negatives about the present administration. Instead, I would like to advocate the Democratic ticket of Bill Clinton and Al Gore. Clinton, when he wins (his victory is increasingly inevitable), will resurrect the nation from the ashes into which Ron and George have so thoughtfully hurled us. Clinton, a graduate of the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University, will aim this nation in a new, post-Cold War direction in which we will work with the international community to ensure a new era of peace.

More importantly, however, Clinton will be able to salvage this nation out of the recession by relieving the tax burden on the middle-class and increasing economic competitiveness with the rest of the world, something Bush has failed to do. He will restructure the welfare system, cut unnecessary defense spending, and make health care available for all people.

Unfortunately, to accomplish these goals while decreasing the federal deficit and balancing the budget, Bill Clinton will have to raise taxes on the rich. I'm sorry, people, but those of you who make over \$200,000 a year will feel a slight increase in

your tax load. It's a shame that those people who enjoy houses on Sea Island and European vacations may have to pay a little bit more, but it's worth it. Sometimes the good of the nation as a whole outweighs the good of a few. Therefore, I urge all of you of voting age to make the right choice, make the choice for the America of tomorrow. Vote Democratic.

By the way, I would like to point out that to judge an individual by the length of his hair is ignorant, foolish, and prejudiced. My formerly esteemed colleague Winston Chapman clearly fails to comprehend this. Actions make the man, not hair length, clothing style, skin color, eye color, religion, or anything else.

To say arbitrarily that people with long hair are a bane to society and should be eradicated is to ignore worse problems and to point to a group as a scapegoat for one's own failings. I ask you, does a person with short hair necessarily possess more true moral values than a person with long hair? I leave that point open for debate. Personally speaking, however, debating such a moot point as the length of one's hair is so trivial that it doesn't deserve your attention as readers. I just wanted to set the record straight. Thank you and good day.

The Top 10 Reasons Why She Can't Go to Homecoming

- 10) "My parents won't let me go"
- 9) "I can't dance"
- 8) "I am going on a debate trip."
- 7) "I want to wait till I am married!"
- 6) "You are pitiful!"
- 5) "I am going on a snipe hunt in Cambodia."
- 4) "I'm holding out for money!"
- 3) "I don't have time to get a dress!"
- 2) Her estranged father took her to the Nile Valley
- 1) "I've got to wash my hair and get my manicure."



MICHAEL 'Renée'
LIFESTYLE PORTRAITURE

(Formerly Skipworth) Salutes

Samuel Smaldone

Samuel is a member of the Varsity Tennis team, a member of Cum Laude, and the Sergeant-at-Arms of the Service Club

OPINIONS

Dr. Dickey's Dating Dilemmas



Dr. R.A. Dickey
Dating
Psychologist

Dear Dr. Dickey,

I've been on many double dates with my best friend this fall and his girlfriend keeps coming on to me. Although she pretends to like my friend, I know she likes me. I don't want to hurt my best friend, but she is crazy about me. What do I do?

Needing your help,
Lost in a Love Triangle

Dear Lost in a Love Triangle,

First of all, I think you need to analyze your feelings for this girl. If you like her as much as she likes you, I think that it is important that you are honest with yourself and your friend. Just remember that if he is a real friend, he will respect you more if you are honest with him than if you try to mess around behind his back. Get it clear in your mind what you want to say and say it - do not play mind games.

If you do not like this girl, then do not lead her on. Tell her that you have no interest in a relationship with

her. Do not be afraid to hurt her feelings - be firm and stand your ground no matter how she might tempt you.

It is important that you understand that the most essential quality in a human character is honesty; so, be honest, no matter how you feel, and things will turn out right.

Dear Dr. Dickey,

My best friend has been in a long relationship, and he has been blatantly cheating on his girlfriend. She is very naive and probably never will find out about this secret liaison. I have tried to convince my friend to stop cheating and choose one girl, but he is still messing around. I see his girlfriend often and feel guilty for not telling her the truth, but I do not want to betray my friend. What should I do?

Seeking advice, a
Man with a Moral Dilemma

Dear Man with a Moral Dilemma,

I fear that, in this case, there is no definite right or wrong choice. You might think the "right thing to do" is to tell your friend's girlfriend about his exploits; or you may think the best thing to do is to

stay out of the affair and not become involved, letting things take their course naturally without your outside interference. Although I cannot tell you exactly what to do, perhaps I can help you by asking you to examine yourself as a person. Sit down, think about this problem, and then ask yourself, "What do I stand for?" If you find yourself answering that you stand for telling the truth, upholding justice, being honest, and preserving the values of love and kindness, then you should tell this girl about your friend's secret relationship, no matter what the consequences may be. As Shakespeare wrote, "To be honest, as the world goes, is to be one man picked out of ten thousand" (*Hamlet*, Act II, Sc.ii, 179).

If you answer that you stand for not poking your nose in other people's business, not getting involved, and not being the middle man, then your choice is clear. Stay out of it, and let whatever happens happen. Just remember, whatever choice you may make, justice will prevail sooner or later, and your friend's deceitful ways will be revealed. So, in sum, my response to you is to go with your instinct and do what you

Let's Keep M.B.A. Clean!

by Julian Bibb, Sports Editor

The campus of our school. We rarely think about the campus of our school and its upkeep. This year, however, our campus has been the major focus of our attention, having undergone vast changes. One walking around cannot help but notice the campus and think something about it. In looking at the campus, it is virtually impossible not to notice the construction workers who are building and planting to make our campus look better. Their efforts have been successful and, in fact, our campus does look better (as seen by the new building, the shrubbery, the walkway, and the lights that now illuminate the campus at night).

With all these workmen around our campus,

building and cleaning each day, we sometimes forget our role in keeping the campus clean. There are trash cans all over our campus, both inside and outside. These do not need to be ignored. Everyone needs to help keep our campus clean. Whether you are on the Recycling Crew or you just throw your wrapper away, you need to keep the campus clean. We all go here and must deal with each other's garbage. With this "new" school and its new buildings, we all need to chip in and do what we can for the campus' appearance. It does not require much energy, nor does it involve much time. All it takes is a little care, a little concern. So take pride in your school and keep the campus clean!

feel is right, and Fate will take care of the rest.

Editor's Note: Dr. Dickey is not a licensed therapist and is not legally permitted to prescribe medicine. He is, however, very experienced in solving others social problems and will entertain any serious questions from the student body. If you have any

questions for Dr. Dickey, please give them to him, Will Berry, or any other member of *The Bell Ringer* staff.

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OPINIONS

Debate...

place individual Junior Varsity speaker.

Continuing its travels, the M.B.A. debate team journeyed to Decatur, Alabama. At this invitational tournament, Jim Miller, debating in the Lincoln-Douglas division, not only won the final round, but also captured the tournament's individual first place speaker award. Also competing in Lincoln-Douglas, David Brooks and Jonathan Glickstein reached quarterfinals while teammate Mark Roden advanced through the octa-final round. In the varsity division in policy debate, Bill Wilson and Tim Wesley reached the final round while Eric Womack and Praveen Kambam remained undefeated but had to concede to Bill and Tim in the semi-final rounds due to the bad luck of the brackets.

That same weekend, the team of Clay Risen and Tom Hall reached the semi-finals of the Hume-Fogg Tournament. Clay was also named the top individual speaker in the varsity division.

Perot...

spreads the pain of budget cuts quite broadly among all of America's classes. By increasing taxes on select items and tightening America's tax and spend belt, Perot has shown how to attack a budget deficit so that America's economy can once again begin to prosper.

One might think that Perot has no chance at winning the presidential election and I would have to agree, but I do not believe that Perot re-entered the race to win. Perot's purpose in this election is to set a precedent that the other candidates must follow. Perot has submitted a budget plan, forcing Clinton and Bush to address and submit a plan as well.

Look back at the presidential debates and think about all of the questions that were asked because Perot had addressed them in his campaign. Questions like "how should we stabilize the economy" and "what should be done with medicare and welfare" would

not have been addressed in such a blunt manner had Perot not been there. Perot is forcing the candidates to react, to take action, and most of all to be candid with the people of the United States.

I believe that it is Perot's purpose to ball up all of his politically embarrassing questions and all of his support, which realizes and demands change, and to sock it to the new President-Elect, whether it is Clinton or Bush. The more support that Perot can gain, the bigger the force will be for the President-Elect to become an action-oriented, candid, and honest president. Perot is preventing Bush and Clinton from being typically vague and obscure politicians. The more people who support Perot's "Just do It" campaign, the more pressure the President-Elect will feel to "just do it." So if you want a president who will be a doer and not just an actor, vote Perot for President.

The 1992-93 debate team has started the year off with record success. With the new facilities and the

continual coaching of Mr. Tate and Mr. DeYoung, the team seems to have a bright future ahead.

The Bell Ringer

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While it may be too late to enhance your grades or extracurricular activities dramatically, you *can* prepare for the SAT and substantially improve upon your PSAT or prior SAT score.

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Steve Lewis
Director

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Director

OPINIONS

Clinton...

during his terms as governor. Clinton's running mate, Albert Gore Jr., was elected to the U.S. Senate after serving eight years in the U.S. House of Representatives. In 1990, Gore became the first candidate

in modern history, Republican or Democrat, to win all 95 of Tennessee's counties. Gore was also chairman of the U.S. Senate delegation to the Earth Summit in Brazil. It is also rumored that Gore can spell potato.

Most people in the United States today realize that the economy is the most important problem facing the nation today. It is a documented fact that George Bush has had "the worst economic record of any President in the last fifty years". Bush's plan, known as "trickle-down-economics," is to cut taxes on the wealthy and hope that they invest their money well. Clinton's economic plan is to

tax people with incomes exceeding \$200,000 annually, as well as to reduce defense spending. The money generated from these cuts will be used on the S&L bailout, environmental cleanup, to advance transportation and communication networks, and new technology for small business. In a recent *Time*

magazine analysis, Clinton's economic plan was noted most effective when compared to the proposals of

both Bush and Perot. Clinton's plan has also been endorsed by eight Nobel Prize winning economists and approximately 400 other economists around the nation. Clinton feels that the only way to reduce the deficit is to restart the economy. On a recent Donahue show, Al Gore notably states "you cannot tax declining incomes". George Bush proposed the second highest tax increase in America's history. No wonder our economy is in shambles.

The Clinton/Gore ticket offers many other critically acclaimed proposals for changing a number of other issues. One such issue is affordable, quality health care, a major concern for most Americans. Since 1980, the average cost of individual health insurance has risen from \$1000 to \$3000 a year. Also, The United States is the only advanced country in the world without a

national health care plan. With the election of Bill Clinton and Al Gore, guaranteeing universal coverage will be changed for those who could not previously afford it.

Fellow Americans, both Republican and Democrat, this nation is facing the prospect of no longer being a respected and successful nation in the world. This

Bush...

ernment health care plan. Anyone who has witnessed the inefficiency of the Department of Motor Vehicles or the Post Office can recognize the imminent failure of government controlled health care. Clinton

would force small business to adopt a health care plan for employees that many small firms simply cannot afford. Clinton would also pamper welfare recipients, giving citizens no incentive to get off the welfare program. President Bush is in favor of

providing job training for those on welfare and denying benefits to mothers who have children while on welfare, as well as cutting benefits to drug users and lawbreakers. President Bush also supports the encouragement of each individual to achieve the maximum instead of providing him with the bare minimum.

It appears that the major issue for Democrats in this election year is the economy. Clinton claims to have the upper hand in this arena. If you look at the facts, however, Clinton comes in dead last. In order to get an idea of Clinton's track record, consider how Arkansas compares to other states. Arkansas stands 50th in youth unemployment, 48th in percentage of people living in poverty, and 47th in per capita income. In addition, state debt and spending have doubled. He claims that his tax plan will relieve the burden on the middle class, yet his economics spell higher interest rates,

the enemy of the middle class. Clinton claims his plan will raise the gross national profit by 7%. This would mean topping the best of the Reagan years, yet he plans to do this by using the same policies that caused Carter's economic down-

fall. I invite you to compare President Bush's economic record. Bush lowered interest rates from 21.5% during the Carter administration to 3% today. Likewise inflation has decreased from 13% to the current 3.26%. President Bush created 1.8 million trade related jobs through his policies and diplomacy, and Bush has been a longtime supporter of the Balanced Budget Agreement.

Beyond all the statistics and figures President Bush has something else that Bill Clinton lacks: character. Unlike "Slick Willy" Clinton, who has been on both sides of every issue, Bush has stood by his platform in the past four years, as he will in the next. Paul Greenberg, Editor of the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, stated it best when he said of Clinton "He is whoever you want him to be at the moment." This explains

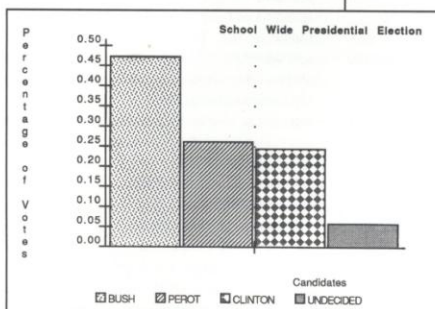
Clinton's claim to being a moderate. Admitting to being left-wing would have meant disaster since the fact is that liberals lose elections. Clinton's stance on most issues is dictated by those he is trying to pander to at the time. Is this the type of leadership we desire in a Commander-in-Chief? I urge you to ignore the bias of the predominantly liberal media and ask yourself whom you trust with your country. While Clinton's views as well as his background are in question, President Bush offers a credible record, a sound platform, and a solid character.

the economy is the most important problem facing the nation today...

...government intervention is not the right answer to every problem

Bush has had the worst economic record of any President in the last fifty years.

Clinton would also pamper welfare recipients, giving citizens no incentive...



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ENTERTAIN-

Country Corner



Greg Holyfield
Staff
Writer

Backstage passes, that's what I had at the Nashville 95 Listener's Appreciation concert. Tracy Lawrence, Mark Chesnutt, Doug Stone, and Ricky Van Shelton all performed Sunday, October 11 at Starwood Amphitheater. Jeremy Hagan, Andy Ward, Tom Hamling, and I went to see these superstars perform.

When we arrived at about 4:15, Tracy Lawrence was already on the stage making the crowd go wild with his rich country voice. Following Tracy was my personal favorite, Mark Chesnutt. He sang all of his songs from his new album "Long Necks and Short Stories." Finally, when the fiddle played the beginning riffs of "Bubba Shot the Jukebox," the crowd went crazy. Everybody was dancing and singing on the hill.

Speaking of Mark Chesnutt, he is our feature artist of the month. Mark was born in Beaumont, Texas, a town right on the Louisiana-Texas border. He grew up listening to George Jones and Merle Haggard, but his favorite was always

Hank Williams Sr. In 1989, he came out with his debut single titled "Too Cold at Home." Later singles included "Broken Promised Land," "Blame it on Texas," and "Broken Jukebox." Last year, Mark came out with his second album titled "Long Necks and Short Stories." His first single, "All My Old Flames (Have New Names)," went number one as did "I'll Think of something." Mark Chesnutt has always been in the shadow of Clint Black and has been referred to as "the poor man's Clint Black." With his new album and string of number one hits, he has left that shadow and is just as popular as Clint. Mark Chesnutt, *the Bell Ringer* and I salute you for your good old country songs and down-to-earth style.

In other country news, on the far side of the country spectrum is Billy Ray Cyrus. His album "Some Gave All" has been number one, taking over Garth Brooks' "Ropin' the Wind." "Achy Breaky Heart" was also number one for four weeks on the Billboard singles chart. As a performer, I think he is awful. The only thing I like about him is his songs; other than that, he is pitiful. First, Billy does not wear cowboy boots, he wears Reebok tennis shoes (I'm not against

Reebok, but country singers do not wear tennis shoes). Secondly, he wears T-shirts with no sleeves and that hang really loosely on him. Lastly, his dancing is terrible. Billy Ray is a good thing for country music, business-wise, but I think his real love is Rock and Roll.

Country music is becoming so popular nowadays that people are getting curious about it. People who used to listen to and watch MTV music are now listening to and watching CMT (Viacom channel 36) music. If you are curious about country music, but you know you do not like steel guitar or fiddle, check out the album "Western Boat," an album by Kevin Welch and the Overtones. The album is very lyrically based with great songs and good stories. Ask Ward Waltemath or me about the album if you are curious. Kevin Welch is one of those artists I would place in the "Alternative Country" category. His songs are of a country nature, but he uses no fiddle or steel guitar. His music is just good, down to earth, easy listening music.

If any of you all have any questions about country music - artists, albums, songs - feel free to ask me and I'll be very happy to answer your questions. Thanks.

Let the Madness Begin



Andy Anderton
Entertainment
Editor

On September 21, 1991, Nashville was graced, for the first time in over five years with the presence of the "godfather of metal", Ozzy Osborne. The almighty Oz came to Starwood Amphitheater in support of his "No More Tours" tour. While in the past Ozzy has threatened his fans with the notion of retirement, this tour seems to be the grand finale for the forty-six year old. Bringing both energy and controversy to his aura, Ozzy is undeniably an influential founder of rock music today.

Beginning his musical career in the U.K., Osbourne first received success as a founding member of the group Black Sabbath. After the predictable "musical differences" of the band members took place, Ozzy went on to pursue a surprisingly successful solo career. Osbourne's music, ornamented by Satanic innuendos of dark and demonic imagery, soon drew incredible controversy with heavy criticism from closed-minded religious activists such as Jimmy Swaggart and Cardinal O'Connor. Most recently, Ozzy has diverted his work from the controversial wickedness of the past to a new melodic and lyrically oriented sound, which he exemplified in his live performance.

The concert's audience totalled merely hundreds shy of a sellout. Metalheads flocking to see the farewell show originated not only from Nashville, but also from Alabama, Kentucky, and throughout the South. Ozzy's setup included enormous video screens which displayed visual interpretations of selective songs as well as providing a closer angle for the headbangers' viewing pleasure.

Commencing with the ceremonial cry, "Let the madness begin," Ozzy kept the crowd screaming throughout the entirety of

the two hour mayhem. Ozzy showed his enthusiasm for his new material by beginning the show with selective tracks from his *No More Tears* album. The complexity of new songs, such as "No More Tears" and "Mamma I'm Coming Home," is attributed solely to the prowess of guitar virtuoso Zakk Wylde. Wylde also played effectively to such classics as "War Pigs" and "Bark at the Moon."

Though the show did not offer such traditional incentives as beheaded bats or feline dismemberment, Ozzy kept the crowd intrigued with his consistent stamina. His vociferous encouragements of "You're not crazy enough!" riled up the audience, as did his throwing buckets of "liquid" into the crowd. The show's encore was by far one of the most energetic concert atmospheres to which I have been exposed.

Ozzy, at the not-so-tender age of forty-six, surprised me with his acrobatic leaps and sprints. The nature of his fitness can definitely be attributed to his departure from a destructive twenty-five year period of intense drug and alcohol abuse. I have been exposed to the abusive past of Ozzy's career, and the transition is certainly obvious. I believe the sober Ozzy offered the fans a more vibrant entertainer than that of years past. The demonic stage antics are decreased; the bat heads are gone; and the sanity of sobriety has kicked into his life.

So, be you the casual Guns N' Roses listener or an adamant Megadeth disciple, remember where the sound originated. Metal has become an extremely popular force in the modern music industry, as much as anyone might try to deny it. Those present on September 21, 1992, knew exactly who created the mightiness behind the modern headbanger and saw the farewell of a cult legend in the history of modern music.

 
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R.E.M.: Automatic for the People

They have finally done it! After all of the dark clouds of pop music, the Athens quartet has resurrected the original sound that boomed from the college dormitories ten years ago in their new album, "Automatic for the People." With the exception of "Drive," the opening cut on the album, R.E.M.'s relaxed "play for the fun of it" music is back. Regrets are sent to all the trendy groupies.

Although "Drive" is a pretty decent tune, the true music begins with the following cut, "Try not to Breathe." "Breathe," being a song reflecting on life and death, is ironically titled after guitarist Peter Buck's heavy breathing

by Sean Strauss, Reporter during the recording. The listener is then pulled down into the moody "Everything Hurts," which is one of the best songs on the album. Every track following is either a "Begin the Begin"-like upbeat sound ("Ignoreland"), a mid-range travel tune ("Man on the Moon"), or a mellow "Perfect Circle"-like cut ("Sweetness Follows"). The journey ends with the best song on the album and one of R.E.M.'s best, "Find the River," which Buck describes as "elegiac."

Though the success of "Automatic for the People" is of no doubt, R.E.M. has decided not to go on tour for the second album in a row.

However, R.E.M. plans to tour in support of their next album, which they will begin recording in June 1993.

"Automatic for the People" is filled with the bands' favorite kind of sound (organs, acoustic guitars, and reduced percussion). Although the sound is recent for the band, the feeling of "Automatic for the People" will take a listener back to the days of "Murmur" and "Life's Rich Pageant." Once the concluding note of the organ fades on "Find the River," the listener can put his feet up and be proud to be a fan of the greatest band of the 80's and what looks to be the 90's too.

SPORTS

Male Cheerleaders, What?

by Jim Bowen, Reporter

Just in time for the 1992 varsity football season, the Big Red Club and the student body have joined forces to bring back a forgotten M.B.A. tradition: Male Cheerleaders! Hoping to increase school spirit and help boost student attendance at the games, the male cheerleaders plan to add some fun and excitement (not to mention noise) to the current cheerleaders' already crowd-pleasing repertoire.

The team consists of Big Red Club president, senior Alex "the Big Red Dog" Dean, senior D.J. Salinas, along with juniors Chad White and Jim Bowen, and made its debut at the Big Red win over Pearl-Cohn. The

game was not only a success for the football team but also for the cheerleaders, who established themselves as a real



The Cheerleaders in Action

crowd favorite. Among the highlights of their debut were Chad White's amazing front and back flips down the track as well as the pushups at every Big Red score.

The game was such a success that the cheerleaders will continue through the

end of the season. Now, with the help of Chad White and head Vanderbilt cheerleading coach Dave Williams, they have combined with the girls and learned enough hair-raising stunts and gravity-defying flips to draw "Ooohs" and "Aaahs" from any crowd.

The cheerleaders hope that they will be another reason for the best fans in the state to come out and support the Big Red as they roll on to a third straight state-playoff birth. If you want to see some great football and some great cheerleading filled with stunts, flips, and of course, plenty of pushups, then come out and support the Big Red each Friday of the season. Roll Red!

Frosh Football 2-1

by Daniel McGugin, Reporter

The M.B.A. freshman football team has gotten off to a fast start with wins over Stratford and Hillwood before losing to Ryan in compiling a 2-1 record. The Frosh opened the season at Tommy Owen Stadium against Stratford. The visiting Spartans took advantage of some early M.B.A. miscues to take a 6-0 halftime lead after a failed two point conversion.

Late in the second half, the Big Red sustained a seven minute touchdown drive to tie the game at 6-6. Jeff Day ran in the two point conversion to give M.B.A. an 8-6 victory.

The following week, the Frosh traveled to Hillwood. The stingy Frosh defense came ready to play and yielded only two first downs during the entire game. The Big Red offense moved the ball with ease throughout the game but uncharacteristic mistakes prevented an M.B.A. score until a John

Gaston touchdown run broke the 0-0 tie. A successful two-point conversion by Bill McGugin provided the final margin in an 8-0 Big Red victory.

After these two victories, the freshmen headed into the Father Ryan game with confidence. The game marked the first time an M.B.A. team had played on the new field of the Irish.

After a slow, defensive struggle throughout most of the first half, Ryan broke a scoreless tie on a sixty yard touchdown run with less than a minute remaining in the first half. The Big Red offense could not get untracked all afternoon, and the Big Red finally succumbed to the Irish, 14-0.

The Frosh, now 2-1, enter the Overton game (Oct. 15) with intentions of maintaining their winning record, and set their sights on finishing the season successfully.

Varsity Golf Wins Region

by Kyle Hatcher, Reporter

M.B.A. Varsity Golf: it is just gustava. This year's team has had an outstanding season to date, compiling a 15-0 record against district opponents and other area teams. Led by seniors D.J. Salinas, Jeremy Hagan, and Ben Curtis; juniors Larry Underwood, Richard Douglas, and Jonathan Henderson; and sophomores Tucker Warren and Cooper Jones; the

Big Red rolled through the regular season and approached the district tournament with a tenacity seen never before. These hackers took home the district title from McCabe with a composite score of 295. Four out of the five team members finished in the top five with Richard Douglas claiming top honors with a 73. More re-

cently, the golfers pummeled all of the competition at McCabe to win the Region 6-AAA tournament with D.J. Salinas posting a 69 to claim the individual title for the third year in a row. Now, the Golf team must first concentrate on the state tournament, and then focus on the Weenie Bowl and the powerful cross-country team. Give or take.

The Tennessee Outdoorsman

by Frazer Buntin, Outdoorsman

Many of you readers are probably wondering what the purpose of this article is. This article is about seeing a four pound largemouth bass leap from the water as you feel the tug on your line. This article is about seeing a group of Canada geese sail into your decoys while a southern sun peeks from the horizon to burn off a cold mist. This is not an article about poaching, cruelty, or illegality but about man entering the wilderness. This article is about two great American traditions: hunting and fishing.

As the weather turns colder, the leaves begin to change colors, and walnuts fall from trees, many sportsmen look forward to the upcoming duck and goose seasons. The regular season opens on December 5, 1992, at 2:00, and there was an early goose season during the first and second weekends in October.

A proud few M.B.A. students ventured out to Old

Hickory lake on the eleventh of October for this early season. Hunters Shannon Durrett, Greg Holyfield, and Jeremy Hagan tried their luck at blind 25. Unfortunately, they came up empty-handed, but I am sure that they had a good time. Other hunters Frazer Buntin, Jim Dismukes, Austin Koon, and Trent Batey were more successful than the others as they dropped three geese from a beautiful group of twenty that they were decoying. The rest of the day was spent practicing duck calls, telling old stories, and enjoying the peace of the wilderness. It was a great hunt that will provide many fond memories for those who participated.

I recommend abandoning the television for a weekend and trying your hand at this sport. It is a great chance to experience a wonderful tradition that is growing stronger every year. See ya' in the field.

Microbe Football Update

by Matthew Berry, Reporter

The microbe football team opened its season at home against a solid B.G.A. squad. The defense held the Wildcats scoreless, while the offense capitalized on its good field position by scoring on TD runs by Max Fuller and Hunter Atkins. In the end, the Little Red prevailed 14-0.

The following week the Microbes traveled to Grassland. Grassland miscues led to three touchdowns by Hunter Atkins, and the defense, led by Scott Denbo's three sacks, held Grassland to a mere six points.

The Little Red then took on junior high powerhouse Brentwood Academy at Tommy Owen Stadium the following week. Early turnovers plagued the Microbes

as they were simply out-matched by the bigger Eagles.

After the loss to B.A., the Microbes recovered to post a win over Brentwood Middle School. A strong defensive effort, led by a Paul Russell interception held the opposition in check as the Little Red ran its record to 3-1.

The Microbes then took on arch-rival Ensworth, winning as usual over the Tigers, 28-6. Four long touchdown runs by Hunter Atkins paced the offense while Bryan Keane led the defense with an interception.

With a 4-1 record, the Little Red is off to a fantastic start heading into its next game with Lipscomb. Much of the credit for this

good start should go to the outstanding coaching staff of Poe, McGugin, Wilson, Whitson, Fisher, and Fraley. Come out and support the Little Red as they look to end their season on a positive note.

Pruitt...

own.

BR: What is the origin of a cosmic ray?

Pruitt: I have no comment and don't quote me.

BR: Do you like the juniors and seniors more than the freshman and sophomores.

Pruitt: Of course not. I would hope that they are more mature.

SPORTS

BIG RED ROLLING ALONG AT 5-1

by Shannon Durrett, Reporter

The M.B.A. varsity football team, after seeing its regular season winning streak fall at twenty-two games, proceeded to win the next three games in what the players have deemed their "new season."

After falling behind on an early Pearl-Cohn touchdown, the Big Red easily went on to defeat the out-matched Firebirds, 41-8. Quarterback R.A. Dickey led the offense, hitting Phil Hill, Austin Koon, and Mark Fuqua twice with touchdown passes, and even chalking one up for himself, scoring on a one-yard plunge.

Joey "Barry Sand-

ers" Delemos completed the offensive field day with a ten-yard scoring jaunt. On the other side of the ball, rover John Arendale, cornerback Baker Eadie, and noseguard



The Big Red Defense

Keith Claverie anchored a defense that bottled up the Pearl-Cohn offense and held them scoreless after the first quarter. Kicker Andy Russ eliminated the dangerous kick return potential of the Firebirds by booting all of his kicks into the end zone.

On the ensuing Friday, the team visited the always pesky Hunters Lane Warriors. Once again, Dickey, protected by the line of Andy Ward, Joe Sittin, Brad Maggart, Peter Stahl, and Dave Sifford, guided the offense to two scoring drives, with Fuqua and Jody Cummings each having a TD reception.

The defense added its own score as Baker Eadie scooped up a Warrior fumble caused by linebacker Ed Martin and pranced into the end zone from four yards out. In addition, the defense played well, picking off two Hunters Lane passes and holding the Warriors scoreless until a meaningless touchdown in the waning minutes of the

game. Sophomore Andy Corts registered two sacks in route to a 21-7 Big Red victory. With the win, M.B.A. upped its record to 4-1.

On October 9, the

tone for the game; the offense piled on score after score, punting the football away only once late in the game. By the time the smoke had cleared, Austin Koon,



R.A. Dickey throws deep

M.B.A. squad traveled to Tullahoma to face the struggling Wildcats. This game was never close. The Big Red took the opening kickoff and marched 70 yards, with Mark Fuqua finishing off the drive by snagging an R.A. Dickey pass for a TD. This drive set

Jody Cummings, R.A. Dickey, and Hugh Gaston had all set foot in the Tullahoma end zone. The defense also kept a speedy offense in check. Led by Hal Pickel and Bo Mixon, the defense shut down the wildcat rushing attack and saw Philip Hill intercept two passes. The final tally was 48-14, upping the Big Red's record to 5-1, and giving the team a much needed lift entering the heart of the district schedule. Come out and support the Big Red in their final four district games. Roll Red!

An Interview with the Cross Country Guru, Coach Pruitt

by Taylor Harris, Reporter

Recently, Taylor Harris interviewed Coach Pruitt about the prospects of this season.

BR: How would you evaluate the progress and success of the cross-country team this year?

Coach Pruitt: Better than average. The team has, perhaps, developed more rapidly than one would have thought, given the number of people who didn't necessarily run a lot of miles this summer and the way we looked in the first meet.

BR: Did you have any goals for the cross-country team?

Pruitt: The goal is... to win

the region and do better than last year in the state. I did not think that would... be a particularly easy goal to achieve; however, at this point, I would be disappointed if we did not do that.

BR: The M.B.A. cross-country team has dominated the region for the past decade or so. Can you give any explanation for this fact?

Pruitt: Not a very good one. We are blessed by being a medium sized fish in a pitifully small pool.

BR: How did the team develop into that medium-size fish?

Pruitt: It's a combination of

things. We've had some pretty talented runners... We're had some hard-working runners... and we've also had some flat out luck.... Primarily, though, much of M.B.A.'s running success is due to the efforts of the former cross country coach, Dr. Drake, who established a program that attracted boys, athletic or non-athletic, who would not normally have run cross country, to run and to invite their friends to run. After the team started winning, more people joined, and a mindset developed in all regional runners that M.B.A. would always win the region.

BR: What do you consider your greatest coaching victory in cross-country?

Pruitt: That would be the 1st invitational that we won, or should have won if not for a major blunder by an unnamed former M.B.A. assistant headmaster.

BR: So that year was the turning point in M.B.A.'s fortunes?

Pruitt: Yes, maybe so.

BR: Coach, M.B.A. is perennially blessed by senior leadership. Do you have any comments about the senior leadership this year?

Pruitt: Huh? What Senior leadership? But don't quote me.

BR: No, seriously, coach.

Pruitt: I think John [Crosslin] has done a pretty good job of trying to communicate how important he feels it is to do well in certain meets and how important he feels it is to work hard... John is not a rah-rah guy, but...

BR: But he gets the job done?

Pruitt: In his own sort of way. And every leader has to find his own way.

BR: Do you feel that the cross-country team, which does, in fact, exert a great deal of effort, receive the recognition that it deserves?

Pruitt: Well, that's sort of a funny question, and the obvious answer is, of course not. We have been to the state more times in the past four

years than any other cross-country team in the state. We do not receive recognition particularly for the hard work of the runners. But most cross country runners do not run for recognition.

BR: What are your hopes and dreams for the future?

Pruitt: Well, I'm not very familiar with the microbes, but the current freshmen and sophomore classes promise to continue to win the region and get better in the state.

BR: Why is your attitude during practice less intense than that of other coaches?

Pruitt: I can't make a guy run a certain time in a certain race. M.B.A. runners are educated well enough that they know what it takes to do well in a meet; therefore, they work hard and practice on their Please see **PRUITT**, page 9

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